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Cropsey encourages efforts to attract new jobs following Federal-Mogul decision

'The closing of Federal-Mogul is a terrible blow to St. Johns and the hardworking men and women who labored to keep the plant alive.'

LANSING—On Monday, auto-supplier Federal-Mogul Corp. announced it will close its 420-employee plant in St. Johns by 2008, with 300 employees losing their jobs by the end of this year. Sen. Alan Cropsey, R-DeWitt, issued the following statement today regarding the announcement:

“The closing of Federal-Mogul is a terrible blow to St. Johns and the hardworking men and women who labored to keep the plant alive. The city did its part to retain the corporation by giving the company a six-year tax abatement. That was the right thing to do, but unfortunately it couldn’t prevent this closure, which will affect businesses, schools, and families throughout the community.

“I am encouraged by legislation passed last year that allows county seats to abate personal property tax 100 percent. As the county seat for Clinton County, St. Johns could take advantage of this option as it works to redevelop the Federal-Mogul property and bring new jobs to the community. The city has an effective tool and incentive that most cities don’t have.

“My colleagues in the Senate and I are going to work diligently to find ways to encourage business growth for St. Johns and other Michigan cities similarly impacted. We must discover suitable, effective, and sustaining uses for business property. We will certainly examine all of the existing options for St. Johns, and we will entertain new, creative ideas for job growth.”

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